



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Terrestrial Scientific Collector's Permit

Application Information

All activities related to animal capture and handling, wildlife rehabilitation, bird banding, educational display, wildlife relocation or carcass salvage will be authorized with this permit.

1. Permits are not transferable.
2. Applications will be reviewed according to the below schedule and must be submitted during the appropriate time frame for the permit to be issued prior to the start of field work.

Scientific Collectors Permit Application Submission, Review and Issuance						
Permit Applications Received	January & February	March & April	May & June	July & August	September & October	November & December
Permits Reviewed	March	May	July	September	November	January
Permits issued no later than:	April 15	June 15	August 15	October 15	December 15	February 15

Applications must be sent to: MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Attn: Wildlife Division
Terrestrial Scientific Collector's Permits
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620
Or email: fwpwld@mt.gov

**** Please omit pages 1 – 4 of this packet when submitting an application, as these pages are informational only ****

3. Permits must be in permittee's and/or subpermittee's possession during field work.
4. Any violation of the conditions of a permit may result in denial of future permit applications.

5. Permits will expire on project-end dates when appropriate but will not be issued for longer than 3-year time periods.
 - Example: A graduate project schedule from January 2010 through December 2013 may be permitted for that entire period but must include annual permit renewals.
 - Permits will be issued for one year only when deemed appropriate by the Wildlife Bureau and for projects with unclear end dates.
6. **Annual renewals are required** for all permits issued for multiple years. The annual renewal process provides a “check in” between the Department and permittee. Please e-mail fwpwld@mt.gov to renew your application.
7. **Annual reports are required** under the provisions of this permit by **December 31** of the year issued.
 - Annual reports MUST include:
 - ✓ Species and number of species handled.
 - ✓ Date handling occurred.
 - ✓ Handling locations (GPS location in UTM coordinates, or latitude-longitude if possible; legal description in Township, Range, Section, and Quarter Section; otherwise, a detailed descriptive location).
 - ✓ Known biological information including animal sex, age, cause of death, etc.
 - Information used will be for administrative purposes, and to supplement location information in the Montana Natural Heritage Program on species of concern in Montana. Specific information will not be published or made available to the general public without permission of the permit holder.
 - Renewals and new permits will not be issued until the report for the previous year’s work has been submitted and accepted.
 - Deadline extensions will be granted only for projects that include winter work that runs through the month of December. Email request for an extension may be sent to: fwpwld@mt.gov

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8. Data collected during the term of the permit must be compatible with the data fields and structures used in the Annual Report Form.
 - Annual Report Form is located at:
<http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/licenses/scientificWildlife/wildlifeCollector.html>
9. According to Sec. 87-2-806, Montana Code Annotated provides for denial of a permit for any of the following:
 - The applicant is not qualified to make the scientific investigation.
 - The proposed collection is not necessary for the proposed scientific investigation.
 - The method of collecting is not appropriate.
 - The proposed collecting may threaten the viability of the species.
 - There is no valid reason or need for the proposed scientific investigation.
10. The Department may place special authorizations or special requirements and limitations on any permit as necessary to protect the species to be collected, other species that may be affected and their habitats or to preserve the integrity of the scientific collection/bird banding methods.
 - Research projects that require capture and/or handling of wild animals must comply with the Animal Welfare Act 1966 and its amendments 1970, 1976, 1985, and 1990. An approval of animal capture, handling and care protocols must be provided from an approved Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). Applicants can apply for a review by the MT FWP IACUC committee if one is not available through other means. Capture or handling activities must not begin until an official review has been completed. More information about an MT FWP IACUC review can be found on the FWP website
<http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/licenses/scientificWildlife/wildlifeCollector.html> or by contacting MT FWP Veterinarian, Jennifer Ramsey at jramsey@mt.gov.
11. Students or associates under the supervision of the principal investigator must have specific training in the collection/banding methods proposed in the application and must be listed as a subpermittee.
12. All of the above provisions apply equally to all applicants whether they are government, university, or private entities.
13. Terrestrial Scientific Collector's Permits (MCA 87-2-806, Section 5) require permittee shall pay \$50.00 for the permit, except that a permittee who is a representative of an accredited school, college, university, other institution of the learning, or of any governmental agency is exempt from payment of the fee.

- Rehabilitators are exempt from this fee.
 - ***Checks will be cashed upon receipt due to mandatory administrative procedures. Refunds will be issued if a permit is denied.***
14. A supplemental questionnaire for bird banders is required for authorization of new permits. Questions are designed to judge the merit of invasive study methods (e.g. capture & handling) over non-invasive methods (e.g. observation only). Questionnaire can be found on the FWP website at: <http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/licenses/scientificWildlife/wildlifeCollector.html>
15. A Federal Permit from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) may be required prior to issuance of a State Permit.
- Possession of a federal permit does NOT result in automatic issuance of a state permit.
 - Montana Birds are protected by the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (as amended), with the exception of rock doves (domestic pigeons), house sparrows, and starlings (both exotic species). Any project that entails handling or capturing of migratory bird species, or possession of birds or bird parts, therefore requires a federal permit issued by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. A federal permit must be obtained before a Montana Bird Banding/Possession permit can be issued.
 - A federal permit is required for any project that entails the handling or capturing of species listed as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act or any project that may impact federally listed species.
 - A list of Montana wildlife species that are listed under the federal ESA can be found on FWP's website: <http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/species/> and at the USFWS Montana Ecological Services Field Office.

US Fish & Wildlife Service Migratory Bird Permit Office
 PO Box 25486, D F C 960154
 Denver, CO80225-0486
 (303) 236-8171
<http://migratorybirds.fws.gov>

USFWS Montana Ecological Services Office
 100 N Park, Suite 320
 Helena, MT 59601
 (406) 449-5225
<http://www.fws.gov/montanafieldoffice/>